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worker having "some small and apparently meaningless operation to perform. These specialized occupations, however, are anything but meaningless, for organized and directed by a captain of industry, they create a completed product [!]" (p. 170). The treatment of skilled and unskilled workmen is unsatisfactory because his criterion of skill is the amount of wages received. The definition of the "simple mathematical average" (arithmetic?) is wrong. It is said (p. 120) to be "secured by adding the rates of wages and dividing by the number of different groups of wage-earners." An arithmetic average is thus defined to be the simple arithmetic average of arithmetic averages. Professor Nearing's definition of the "weighted average" is the correct definition of the simple arithmetic average (see Bowley's *Elements of Statistics*, p. 109, and Yule's *Theory of Statistics*, p. 108).

*Wages in the United States* contributes nothing to the methodology of wage statistics; it is a useful compilation of existing data with a statement of the more or less obvious conclusions to be drawn therefrom.

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*Unemployment in the State of New York.* By WILLIAM MORRIS LEISERSON. (New York: Privately printed. 1911. Pp. 199.)

This study was made for a public commission aiming at legislation. It is welcome because (with its appendices) it adds to our meagre information on unemployment in America. From official censuses, records of relief agencies, employment bureaus and trade-unions, and from special testimony, the author infers that the workers of New York average ten weeks of idleness a year. Simultaneously there is an unfilled demand for labor. Interesting details regarding the causes of unemployment are given: that seasonal declines in advertising occasion seasonal idleness in newspaper publishing; cigar makers keep within orders because "cigars do not 'ship' well when dry." Interesting also is the analysis of irregular changes in the demand for labor.

Changes in the supply of labor, strangely, are neglected. "What are the eighty odd thousand factory employees of the

state who were employed in 1907 and not employed in 1908 and 1909 doing now?" Many are "vagrants and tramps" (p. 43; cf. 39). In 1908 and 1909, our immigration reports show 165,005 New York aliens emigrated; 318,058 others immigrated. Because no allusion is made to such facts, the author's interpretation of his statistics is often vitiated. Again, the clothing trade is going largely to inland cities: "Workingmen cannot . . . break up relations which they have built up by years of living in one community and quickly follow the employer" (p. 48). Is the connection of immigrant labor with this industry appreciated? The one consequence of immigration is held to be a constant "over-supply" of labor (p. 53).

Public labor exchanges, chiefly, are recommended. Private exchanges, because of their large number and their desire to fill temporary places "tend to increase rather than diminish [?] the maladjustment" causing unemployment (p. 56). Grant that public exchanges have superior advantages; yet it is extreme to urge that employers of common labor "would have no difficulty in finding it at the public employment office" and that "the idleness of trained workers would not need to exist if we had an exchange for skilled labor" (p. 67). Moreover, the author has previously held that fluctuations in employment arise permanently from industrial causes, and that present maladjustment is largely explained by the fact that workmen lack the industrial fitness demanded [for a given wage] by employers. Relief from "the general oversupply of unskilled laborers" is sought in the vocational guidance of children and in industrial education. Though such institutions are desirable, it must be remembered that the problem of the unskilled in New York is less a problem of children than of immigration.

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*Enquête sur le Régime Alimentaire de 1065 Ouvriers Belges.* By A. SLOSSE and E. WAXWEILER. Instituts Solvay, Travaux de l'Institut de Sociologie, Notes et Mémoires, No. 9. (Brussels: Misch et Thron. 1910. Pp. 260.)

This recent addition to budgetary bibliography throws more light on the physiological than on the sociological and economic problems of human living. The study presented in the volume